

**Meeting Notes**  
**Northeast Area Plan Update**  
**June 9, 2005**

**Community Stakeholders & City Staff in Attendance:**

Beau Arnason, <i>Steiner &amp; Associates</i>	Dan Knode, <i>Ohio Dominican Univ</i>
Lori Baudro, <i>Planning Division</i>	Rose Madison, <i>Nghbd Svcs Division</i>
William J. Carter, <i>Increase CDD</i>	Craig Noreen, <i>Planning Division</i>
Saundra Cunningham, <i>Somerset Civic</i>	Veronica Ojeda, <i>Renaissance CDC</i>
William Dodson, <i>Dayspring CCDC</i>	Vince Papsidero, <i>Planning Division</i>
Brenda Hairston, <i>NEAC</i>	Elwood Rayford, <i>NEAC</i>
Bob Hill, <i>NE Area Commission</i>	Jean Rayford, <i>Somerset Civic Assoc</i>
Joe Keehner Jr, <i>Col Baha'i Center</i>	Cheryl Taylor, <i>NEAC</i>

The Northeast Area Plan kick-off meeting was held on Thursday, June 13, 2005 in the Unity Health Center Community Room at 3433 Agler Road. The meeting began at approximately 6:40 PM with introductions. Vince Pasidero, Columbus Planning Division Administrator, and Elwood Rayford, Northeast Area Commission Chair, both expressed support and enthusiasm for the plan update.

Next, Senior Planner Craig Noreen explained the rationale for the plan update. The most significant reason given was that the existing plan, adopted in 1994, is more than 10 years old, making much of its content outdated and obsolete. Craig then offered five objectives for the revision: 1) to accurately reflect current conditions in the northeast area; 2) to identify present-day issues for residents, business owners, and other area stakeholders; 3) to delineate community goals and objectives for the future of the planning area; 4) to develop clear and concise policies based on input from the working committee; and 5) to establish strategies (or action steps) for accomplishing plan provisions.

Mr. Noreen then gave an overview of the planning process, noting four general phases: 1) preliminary organization, 2) data collection and analysis, 3) plan development, and 4) Review and adoption. He indicated that the Planning Division estimates that the first three phases will take seven to eight months to complete but that this may change as the process unfolds.

Next, Craig talked about the working committee. He explained that this group will be made up of area stakeholder and should consist of individuals from all sectors of the community. Craig then described the roles and responsibilities of working committee members: 1) to attend monthly meetings for the duration of the planning process; 2) to review materials sent in advance of each meeting and come prepared to participate; 3) to provide input that represents the community's interests and concerns; and 4) to report back to your group or organization on the outcomes and developments of the working committee.

Those in attendance were then asked to identify assets of the Northeast Planning Area, defined as the area bound by Morse Road on the north, Hudson and Mock roads/Alum Creek/I-670 on the south, I-270 on the east, and the Conrail railroad tracks on the west. Mr. Noreen indicated that an asset could be a place, value, or characteristic that represents a positive aspect of the community. The following is the lists of assets called out by those in attendance:

1. Alum Creek for its aesthetic, recreational and environmental value
2. Easton because it serves as a catalyst for other development
3. Good access to downtown because of its location/adjacency to I-670
4. Mock Park for its benefit to the community as a place to assemble and recreate
5. Citygate because it serves as a major employment center for area residents
6. Access to the airport from the Northeast area
7. Existence green space (though limited) that remains undeveloped
8. Innis Park for its aesthetic and recreational value to the community
9. Sommerset Park for its aesthetic and recreational value to the community
10. History of the area; connection with the underground railroad
11. Historic homes that still exist on Sunbury Road
12. Variety of housing (i.e. start-up, market rate, high end, single-family detached, condos, senior) in the area bound by Agler, Stelzer, McCutcheon and Sunbury
13. Mix of housing in the Arlington Park District (i.e. 1950's housing, new builds, condos, senior center congregate housing)
14. Number of schools in the area and their accessibility to neighborhood children
15. Columbus School for Girls and Ohio Dominican University
16. Large number of churches in the area and their involvement in the community
17. Civic Associations in the Northeast area
18. Northeast Area Commission

Next, those in attendance were asked to identify liabilities of the Northeast Planning Area. Mr. Noreen defined liabilities as concerns, issues, or trends that negatively affect or change the community. The following is the list of liabilities called out by those in attendance:

1. Lack of necessary infrastructure (i.e. curbs, gutters, and sidewalks) on major arterials.
2. Traffic exceeds capacity of roadway on the following streets: Agler, Cassidy, Mock, Innis, McCutcheon, and Sunbury

3. Lack of medical facilities to service area residents
4. High density development in Alum Creek floodplain (east side of creek)
5. Groundwater pollution/runoff into Alum Creek
6. Subject area contains two townships with varying infrastructure; some areas have old well and septic systems that have maintenance issues
7. Increased air traffic, causing more noise and affecting air quality
8. Lack of recreational facilities for area residents
9. Lack of library facilities for area residents
10. Ever shrinking amount of green space due to development
11. Sporadic public transportation; lack of service to some portions of the area
12. Traffic encountered by Ohio Dominican students crossing Sunbury Road
13. Pedestrian safety, which is compromised by the lack of sidewalks in the area
14. Crime in portions of the area, esp. drug trafficking, theft, and illegal liquor sales
15. Absence or poor quality of street lighting in much of the area
16. Lack of Police presence and poor response time due to size of precinct #7 and the drain of Easton
17. Impact of vehicular traffic on scenic roads (e.g. Sunbury)
18. "Popcorn" development pattern that is hodge-podge
19. No town center or main street
20. Lack of neighborhood retail, like grocery stores
21. No 'Clintonville' type nodes that are accessible/walkable for area residents
22. Lack of small business opportunities
23. No retail strategy for the area
24. Culture class due to new/different populations in the area
25. Too much starter-housing that is low-mod and high density
26. Lack of connectivity between new and existing housing development; city seems more interested in new development than its relationship to existing neighborhoods
27. Impact of infrastructure (city water and sewer) on development patterns, especially residential
28. Deteriorated/substandard housing conditions in the area bound by Albert on the north, the Conrail tracks on the west, Hudson on the south, and Woodland/Berrell on the east; portions of the this area are in Columbus, other portions are in Mifflin Township; need better interface/relationship between entities to address this area
29. Deteriorated street conditions near Post Office
30. Heavy truck traffic from Post Office and Value City, endangering area children walking to/from neighborhood schools and recreation center; truck need to be re-routed
31. Hazardous road conditions at 3-C and Joyce Avenue (near Schottenstein's)

Lastly, those in attendance were asked to identify possibilities for the Northeast Planning Area. Mr. Noreen defined a possibility as an improvement, enhancement, or opportunity one expects or would like to see happen that will have a measurably positive impact on one's neighborhood. The following is the list of possibilities established by those in attendance:

1. Agler/Cassidy and Agler/Purdue intersections as 'town centers' for the Northeast area; both present retail opportunities; possible Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Districts
2. Use abandoned railroad tracks for walking trails, bike paths, future light rail
3. Widen major arterials, specifically Agler, Cassidy, McCutcheon, Innis, and Sunbury
4. Install of sidewalks and traffic calming devices to better control vehicular traffic and make pedestrian traffic safer
5. 14 acre wooded track of land with creek north of Linden Air (?) – great recreational opportunities/potential for nature trails
6. Improve senior housing; continue envelop rehab programs
7. Opportunities to improve area north of Agler
8. Wire all of the Northeast area for new technologies as part of infrastructure improvements – upgrade and expand so that technologies are available to all
9. Integrate environmental concerns into development decisions
10. Large number of new housing units in the area has created demand for new commercial and civic-type development (discourage more residential development)
11. Opportunities for shared civic/community space (e.g. library/school, recreation center/library, etc.)
12. Land available for community swimming pool near Mifflin Middle School or Howard Recreation Center
13. Opportunities for shared-use substation – prefer it be located in the McCutcheon, Agler, Cassidy, Stelzer roads area; possible land offer several years ago by Wexner in the I-270 and Cassidy area
14. Explore the use of cameras at intersections to address traffic and crime problems (especially in school areas)
15. Maintenance and Improvements to Brittney Hills Park; City was to assume Brittney Hills Center – building deteriorating
16. Potential for park in Sommerset –land for park remains undeveloped
17. Opportunity for pocket park near fire station; opportunities for nature trails in area
18. Need for public transportation on Sunbury from Ohio Dominican University to Easton

Craig concluded by inviting all in attendance to participate on the working committee. He indicated that the committee's first meeting would be next month. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, July 14, 2005  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Unity Health Center Community Room  
3433 Agler Road